Sakura no Sono

Yoshida Akimi

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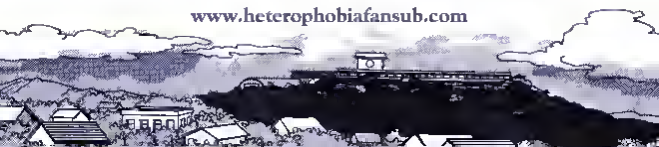


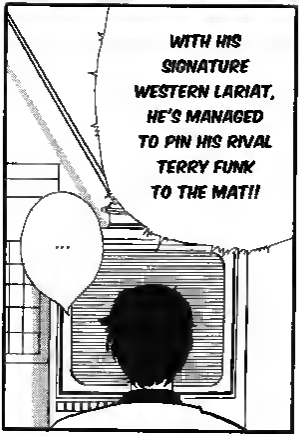
Schoolgirl
Princess

When I was in high school,
I always tended to fall for aggressive guys

Like sand spilling through my fingers,
I found the same aggressive guys annoying and wished they would learn to control themselves. They just didn't appeal to me at all anymore.
Once I was in my twenties,
RAWR
grr
grr
was a man who was practically the dictionary definition of "safe"
sparkle
in the end the only one left
Kadokawa Nobuo, 28. Middle school teacher at Dozono Girls Academy
He was three years ahead of me at university and we got married as soon as I graduated.
Three years later, our daughter was born
and my husband named her Karika

LISTEN TO THEM CHANT HIS NAME!!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
HANSEN!
THE CROWD GOES WILD!!

LET'S DO IT.
twist
He looks like a different man.

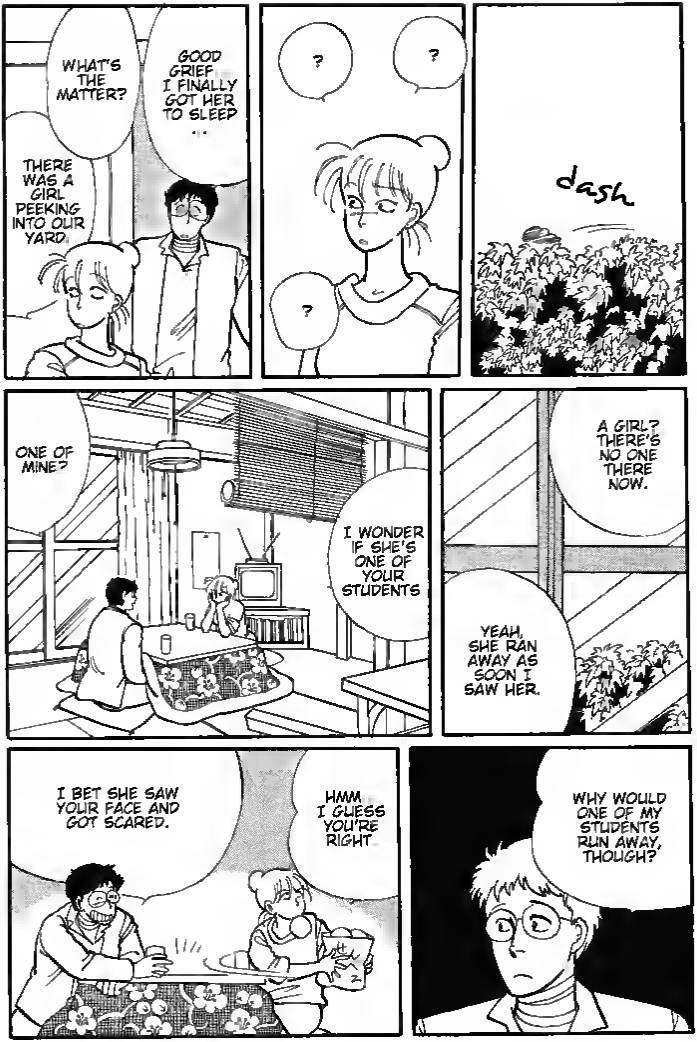

WITH HIS SIGNATURE WESTERN LARIAT, HE'S MANAGED TO PIN HIS RIVAL TERRY FUNK TO THE MAT!!
...

...

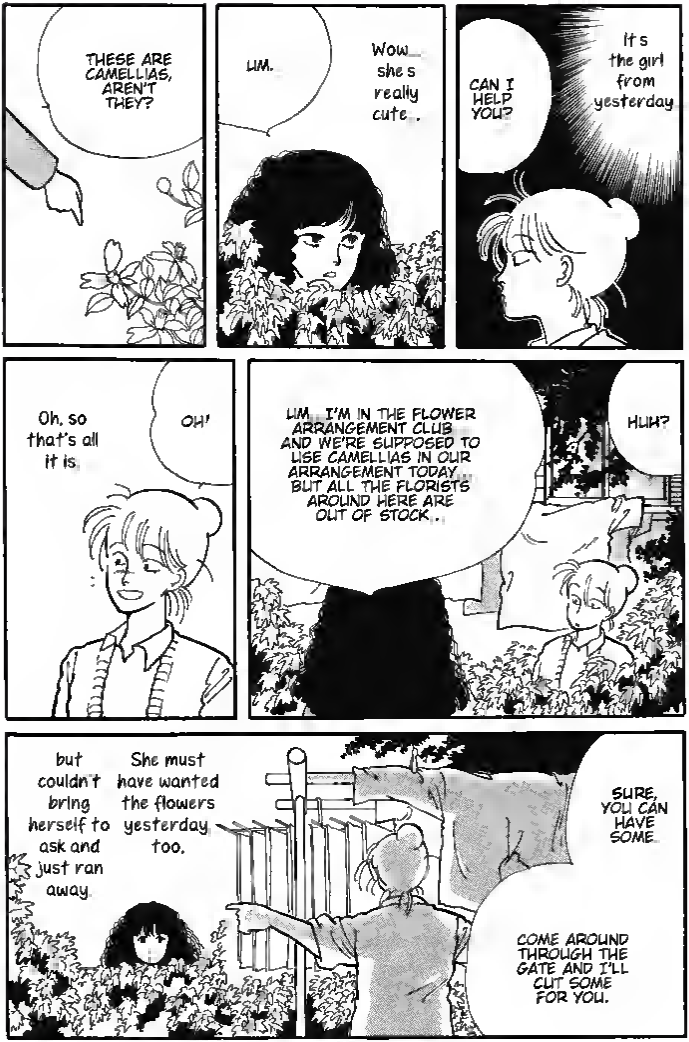
OW! OW! NONOKO, THAT HURTS!!
My husband's hobbies are playing at pro wrestling and watching baseball
How do you like my Elbow Stab!?
but he's becoming a total "Japanese dad" stereotype.
Take that! Western Lariat!!
WAH!
TOTALLY SERIOUS NOW
Hiya! I'm not done for yet!!
ROPE! ROPE!
It's not that there's anything wrong with that.
CRASH
THUMP
The neighbors are at it again.
THWACK
Oof!
I win

GOOD IDEA. I CAN'T EXACTLY ADMIT I HURT MY NECK PRETENDING TO BE A PRO WRESTLER..
I CALLED AND TOLD THEM YOU'D FALLEN OFF YOUR BIKE.
HE'LL NEED TO TAKE THE DAY OFF..
YES, SO I'M AFRAID
I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL AGAIN ONCE WE GET BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL.
GO PLAY WITH DADDY.
NO, NO, KARIKA. THAT'S DANGEROUS
GOOOOO
VVVVVV
TOO BAD.. GUESS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH WRESTLING FOR A WHILE.
that I became a housewife right after graduation
All my friends think it's kind of weird
HERE, KARIKA, COME TO DADDY.. MOMMY'S VERY BUSY

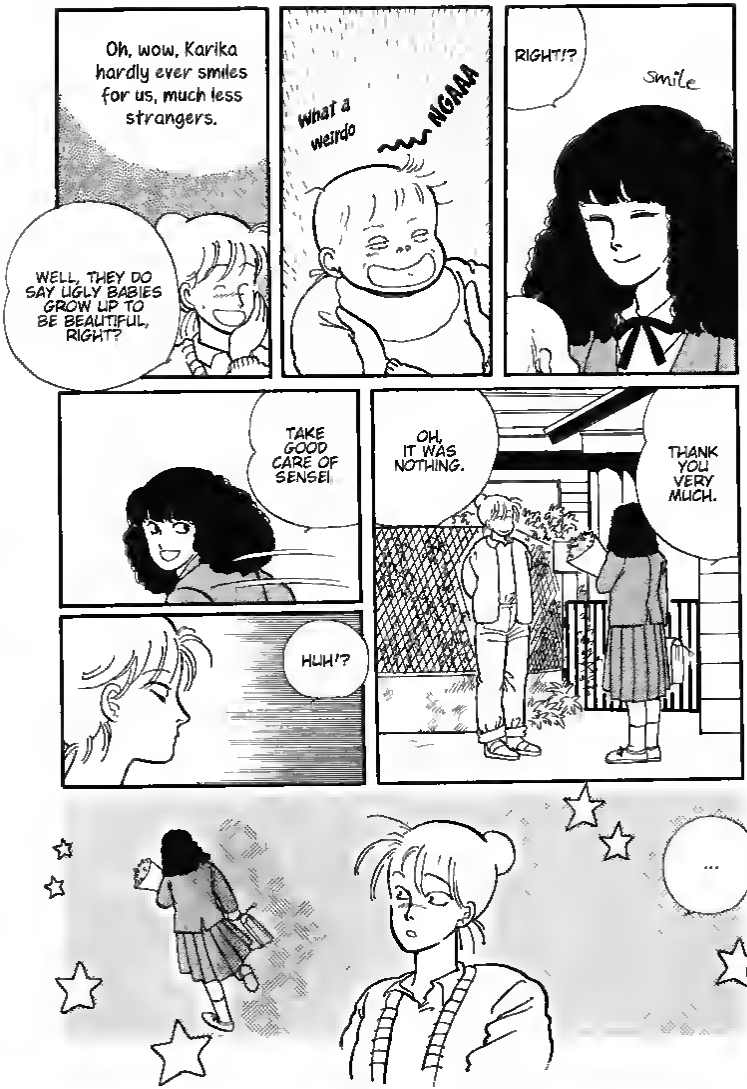
LET'S SEE... "AS ALWAYS, YOUR FINANCES CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH, YOU MAY BE IN FOR SOMETHING UNEXPECTED..." HUH?
crunch
Back then I didn't feel any resistance to the idea of getting married and being a housewife
But I didn't really give it too much thought
Rice crackers
NOW, WHAT'S MY FORTUNE FOR THIS MONTH...?
rustle
WHAT COULD IT BE..? WILL KADOKAWA-KUN GET A RAISE...? NOT LIKELY..
crunch


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
GOOD GRIEF I FINALLY GOT HER TO SLEEP...
THERE WAS A GIRL PEEKING INTO OUR YARD.
?
?
?
dash
ONE OF MINE?
I WONDER IF SHE'S ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS
A GIRL? THERE'S NO ONE THERE NOW.
YEAH, SHE RAN AWAY AS SOON I SAW HER.
I BET SHE SAW YOUR FACE AND GOT SCARED.
HMM I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
WHY WOULD ONE OF MY STUDENTS RUN AWAY, THOUGH?

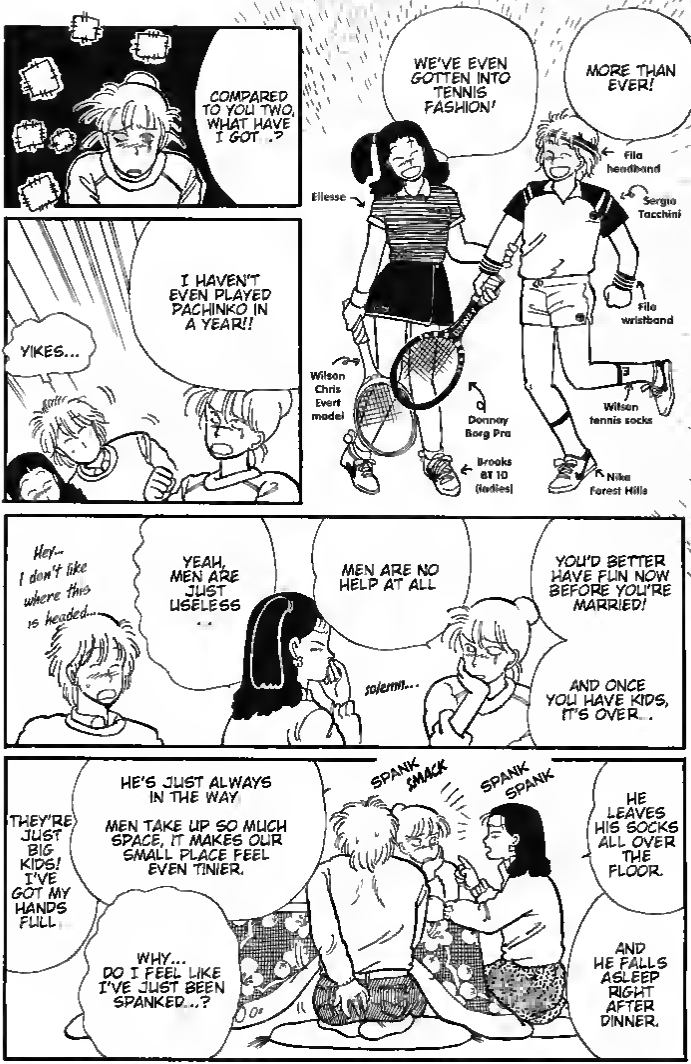
AND STOP AT THE DOCTOR'S ON YOUR WAY HOME
NOW DON'T MOVE YOUR NECK TOO MUCH
I WILL.
I KNOW, I KNOW
HERE'S YOUR LUNCH
I've got one big kid and one little kid..
Marriage is just like child-rearing..
Whew!
rustle

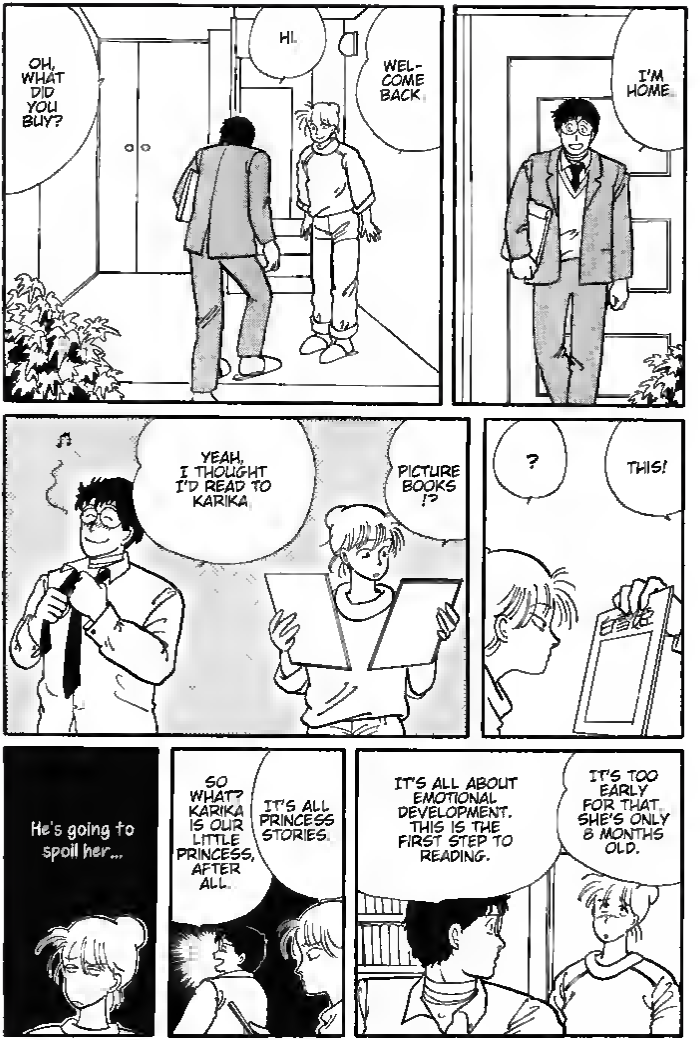

THESE ARE CAMELLIAS, AREN'T THEY?
UM.
Wow... she's really cute.
It's the girl from yesterday
CAN I HELP YOU?
OH!
Oh, so that's all it is.
UM... I'M IN THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLUB AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO USE CAMELLIAS IN OUR ARRANGEMENT TODAY, BUT ALL THE FLORISTS AROUND HERE ARE OUT OF STOCK...
HUH?
SURE, YOU CAN HAVE SOME.
COME AROUND THROUGH THE GATE AND I'LL CUT SOME FOR YOU.
She must have wanted the flowers yesterday too.
but couldn't bring herself to ask and just ran away.

YES.
ARE YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
YES.
WHAT YEAR?
3RD YEAR.
OH, SO YOU'LL HAVE EXAMS SOON.
She sure is cute. I hope Karika grows up to be this cute.
HUH? OH, SURE! OF COURSE.
CAN I SEE IT? I LOVE BABIES.
smile
HUH? YEAH.
DO YOU HAVE A BABY?
WAAH WAAH
OH, THAT'S NOT TRUE SHE'S CUTE.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN ALL OUR WORST FEATURES NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, I BET?
Hahaha...
FUG

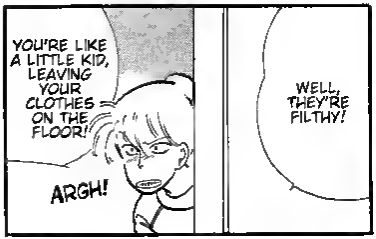

Oh, wow, Karika hardly ever smiles for us, much less strangers.
WELL, THEY DO SAY UGLY BABIES GROW UP TO BE BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?
what a weirdo
NIGAAA
RIGHT!?
Smile
TAKE GOOD CARE OF SENSEI
HUH!?
OH, IT WAS NOTHING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...

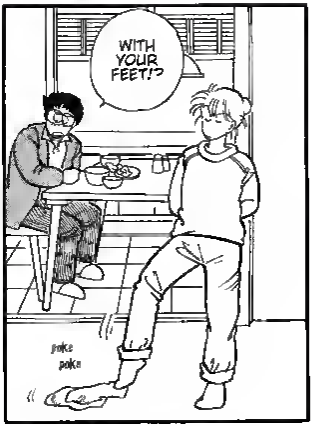
THAT DOES SOUND SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH
SHE'S SUCH A LITTLE WEIRDO. YOU SHOULD HAVE NAMED HER PATAKARIKA. SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER FROM THE MANGA PATALLIRO.
WHO'S A GOOD GIRL?
COME ON, KARIKA-CHAN, GIVE US A SMILE
grump
YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL. AFTER ALL, MIDDLE SCHOOLERS THESE DAYS ARE PRETTY MATURE.
AND HE'S A MALE TEACHER AT AN ALL GIRLS SCHOOL...
NO WAY... I MEAN, SHE'S HIS STUDENT.
MAYBE HE HAS A SECRET LOLITA FETISH OR SOMETHING.
I ENVY YOU. ARE YOU TWO STILL INTO TENNIS?
YEP!!
IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED
I WENT TO AN ALL GIRLS SCHOOL MYSELF AND THERE WAS A GIRL WHO MARRIED OUR YOUNG TEACHER AS SOON AS SHE GRADUATED.
...


COMPARED TO YOU TWO, WHAT HAVE I GOT..?
I HAVEN'T EVEN PLAYED PACHINKO IN A YEAR!!
YIKES...
WE'VE EVEN GOTTEN INTO TENNIS FASHION!
MORE THAN EVER!
Ellesse
Fila headband
Sergio Tacchini
Fila wristband
Wilson Chris Evert model
Donnay Borg Pro
Brooks BT 10 (ladies)
Wilson tennis socks
Nike Forest Hills
Hey... I don't like where this is headed...
YEAH, MEN ARE JUST USELESS..
MEN ARE NO HELP AT ALL
solemn...
YOU'D BETTER HAVE FUN NOW BEFORE YOU'RE MARRIED!
AND ONCE YOU HAVE KIDS, IT'S OVER..
THEY'RE JUST BIG KIDS! I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL!
HE'S JUST ALWAYS IN THE WAY!
MEN TAKE UP SO MUCH SPACE, IT MAKES OUR SMALL PLACE FEEL EVEN TINIER.
WHY... DO I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST BEEN SPANKED...?
SPANK
SMACK
SPANK
SPANK
HE LEAVES HIS SOCKS ALL OVER THE FLOOR.
AND HE FALLS ASLEEP RIGHT AFTER DINNER.

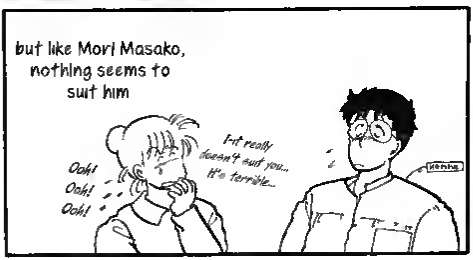

OH, WHAT DID YOU BUY?
HI.
WELCOME BACK.
I'M HOME.
YEAH, I THOUGHT I'D READ TO KARIKA.
PICTURE BOOKS!?
?
THIS!
He's going to spoil her...
SO WHAT? KARIKA IS OUR LITTLE PRINCESS, AFTER ALL.
IT'S ALL PRINCESS STORIES.
IT'S ALL ABOUT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO READING.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT. SHE'S ONLY 8 MONTHS OLD.

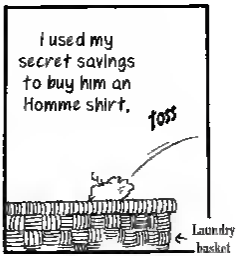
HE WAS REALLY DOWN. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING TO AKO?
slurp
APPARENTLY AKO TOLD HIM SHE NEEDS MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT MARRIAGE.
I SAW IWANAMI TONIGHT.
Pickles
HEY! I BET YOU BLEW EVERYTHING OUT OF PROPORTION, DIDN'T YOU?
I JUST TOLD HER THE TRUTH.
crunch crunch
WHO, ME? I DIDN'T SAY A THING.
annoyed
His socks
IT'S NOT OUT OF PROPOR-TION


YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE KID, LEAVING YOUR CLOTHES ON THE FLOOR!
ARGH!
WELL, THEY'RE FILTHY!


WITH YOUR FEET!?
poke poke

...
Jeez...


but like Mori Masako, nothing seems to suit him
Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!
I-it really doesn't suit you... It's terrible...
Hmmm


I used my secret savings to buy him an Homme shirt.
toss
Laundry basket

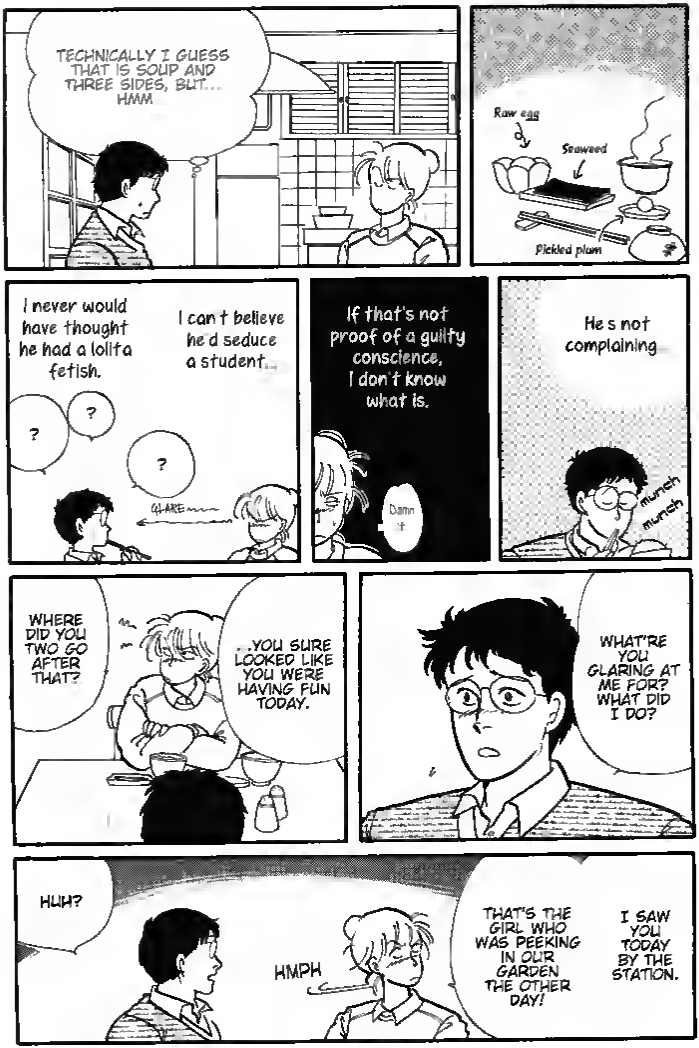
...AND EVERYONE IN THE LAND CELEBRATED THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS...

with Seiyu slacks Navy blue gabardine no less! I could cry!
Who, me?
You know how much work it took getting this gal present-table...?
I hear you...!!
I don't want a man who looks best in a Lacoste polo...
It's driving me mad!! Ooh! Ooh! I can't take it anymore!
Hahaha...
But I gave up when he wore Ito-Yokado briefs

Why did I ever marry him anyway...?

WHAT SHOULD I MAKE FOR DINNER TONIGHT...?
I've got a great sale for you today, ladies!
Fish
Welcome! Welcome!
Shopping Bag
=3=3
?!
I WISH HE'D THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH TROUBLE IT IS TO COME UP WITH A MENU EVERY NIGHT
Kadokawa-kun doesn't drink, but he sure complains if we don't have enough side dishes...
I like at least 3 sides, not just soup and one veggie
WHAT!?

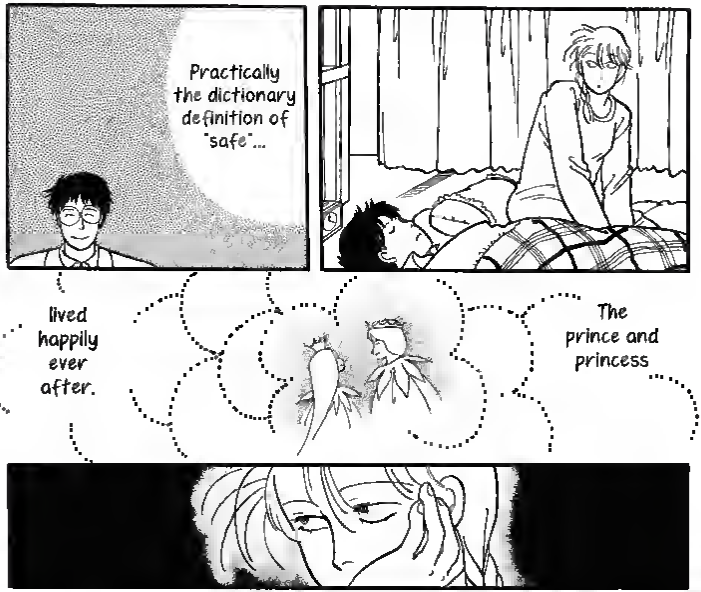
That girl.
I, I'm his wife, why am I the one hiding!?
gasp
Huh? They're gone
Oh no, I lost them
Does that dweeby, stinky, clutzy husband of mine really have the balls to seduce a student?
It can't be...
SCANDAL!
Student seduced by teacher!


TECHNICALLY I GUESS THAT IS SOUP AND THREE SIDES, BUT... HMM
Raw egg
Seaweed
Pickled plum
I never would have thought he had a lolita fetish.
I can't believe he'd seduce a student...
?
?
?
GLARE
If that's not proof of a guilty conscience, I don't know what is.
Damn
He's not complaining
munch munch
WHERE DID YOU TWO GO AFTER THAT?
...YOU SURE LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING FUN TODAY.
WHAT'RE YOU GLARING AT ME FOR? WHAT DID I DO?
HUH?
HMPH
THAT'S THE GIRL WHO WAS PEEKING IN OUR GARDEN THE OTHER DAY!
I SAW YOU TODAY BY THE STATION.

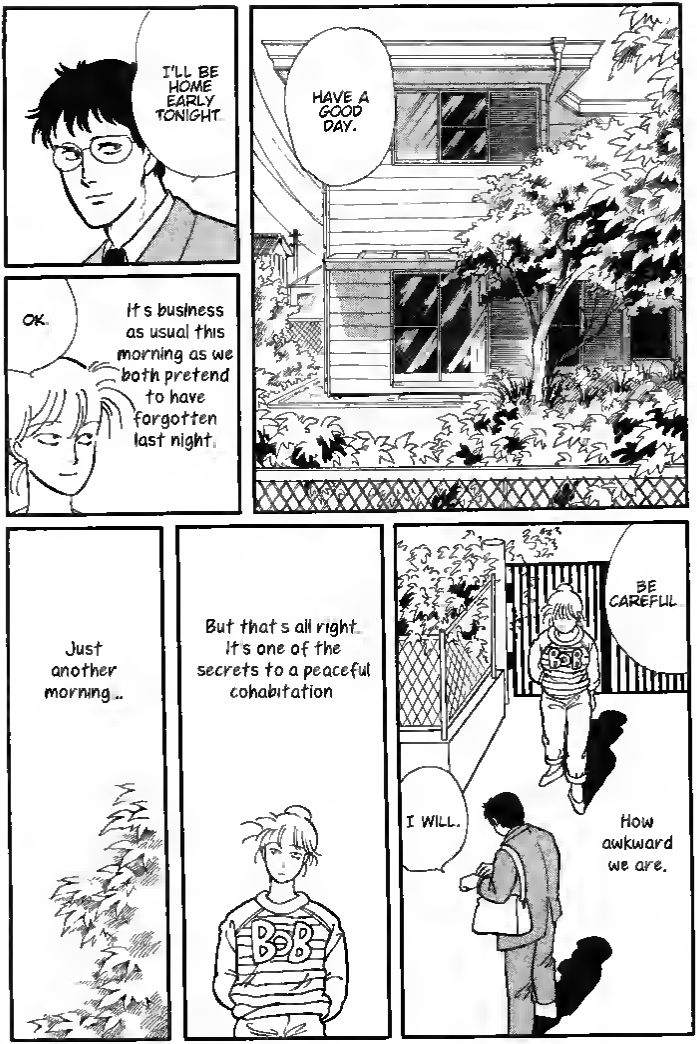
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE? THAT'S PRETTY CONVENIENT
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE SO POPULAR!
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER PEEKING IN OUR GARDEN... THAT'S WEIRD..
...IT'S TRUE I HELPED A GIRL TO THE TRAIN STATION.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT IMPRESSION, BUT I WOULD NEVER LAY A HAND ON A STUDENT!
NONOKO!
WHAT?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
CLATTER
...
BESIDES, THAT GIRL DOESN'T EVEN GO TO MY SCHOOL! I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD AT LEAST RECOGNIZE OUR UNIFORMS, BUT I GUESS NOT.

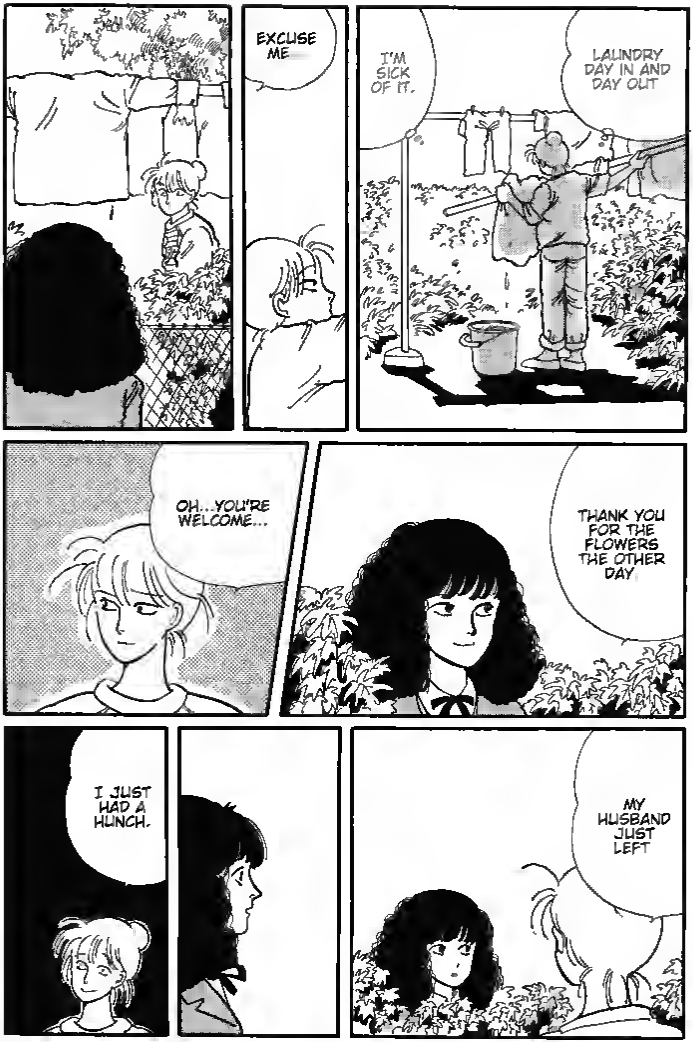
It's his fault for doing something that could be misconstrued.
Hmph! What's he so mad about!?
tromp tromp tromp
tromp tromp tromp
...
Who's there?
Oh!
Wh-what are you guys all doing here anyway? Eeeek!
WH-WHAT? OUR BREAKUPS WERE ALL MUTUAL, DON'T BLAME ME!
If it isn't H-kun, my high school boyfriend Yikes, and T-kun, too! Oh, and K-kun from college. And N-san!

ZZZZ
GASP
Why on earth...?
A dream...?
ZZZZ
mumble
GULP
MM, MMMM
roll
it's not like I was cheating or anything
Jeez... why am I so on edge?

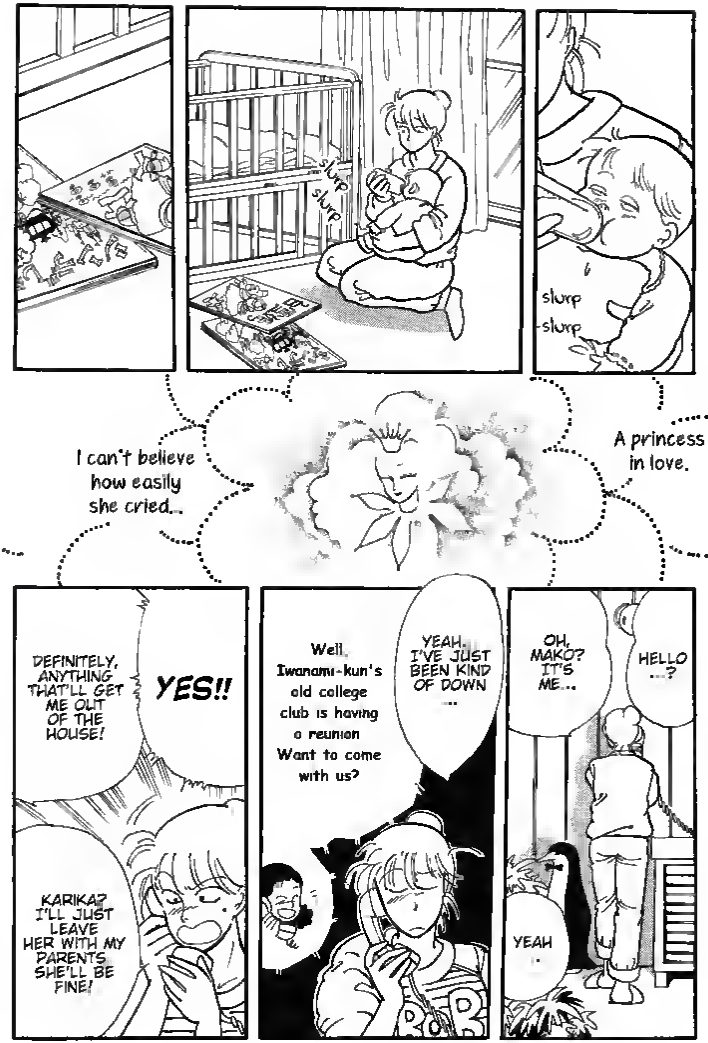


But it's not easy being the prince or the princess.

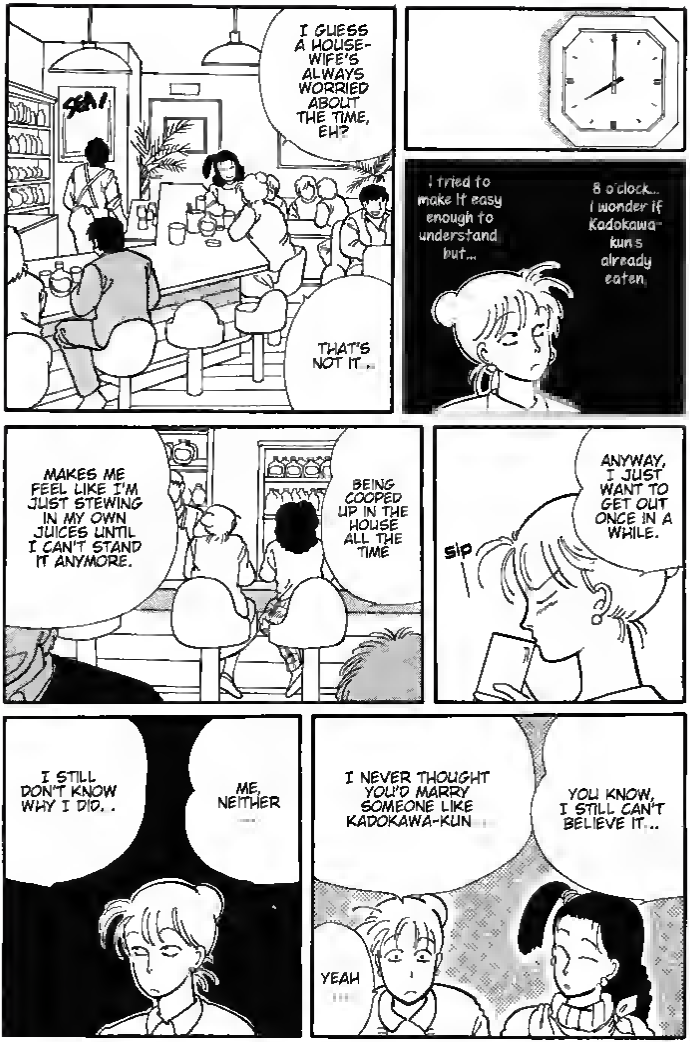

I'LL BE HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
HAVE A GOOD DAY.
OK.
It's business as usual this morning as we both pretend to have forgotten last night.
Just another morning...
But that's all right. It's one of the secrets to a peaceful cohabitation
BE CAREFUL.
I WILL.
How awkward we are.

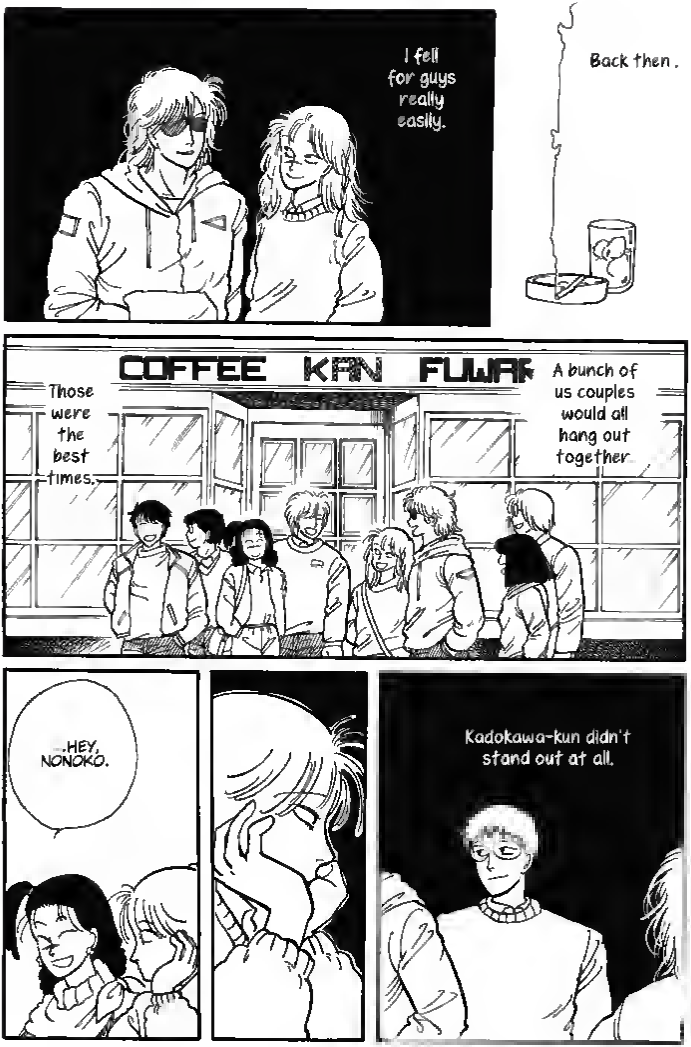

EXCUSE ME...
I'M SICK OF IT.
LAUNDRY DAY IN AND DAY OUT
OH...YOU'RE WELCOME...
THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS THE OTHER DAY.
I JUST HAD A HUNCH.
MY HUSBAND JUST LEFT

BUT I DO WONDER WHAT A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU SEES IN AN OAF LIKE MY HUSBAND...
I'M NOT ANGRY OR ANYTHING, THOUGH.
...
I...
OH! WAIT...
bow
I'M SORRY
Oh, she's crying!
Crap...

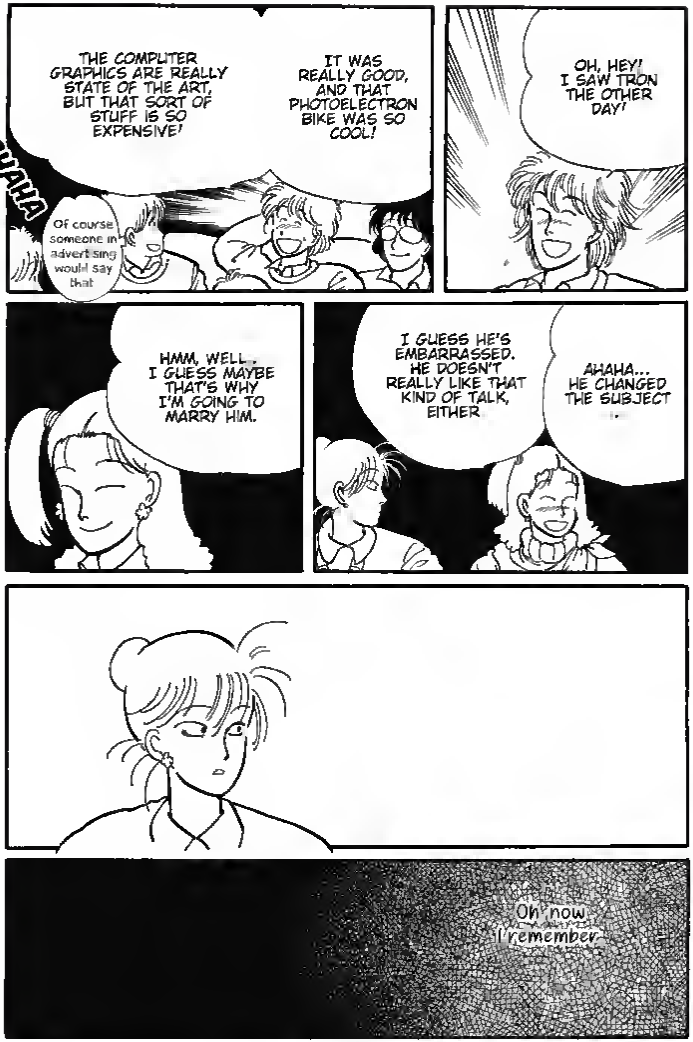

slurp slurp
slurp slurp
I can't believe how easily she cried...
A princess in love.
HELLO ...?
OH, MAKO? IT'S ME...
YEAH.
YEAH. I'VE JUST BEEN KIND OF DOWN ...
Well, Iwanami-kun's old college club is having a reunion Want to come with us?
YES!!
DEFINITELY, ANYTHING THAT'LL GET ME OUT OF THE HOUSE!
KARIKA? I'LL JUST LEAVE HER WITH MY PARENTS SHE'LL BE FINE!

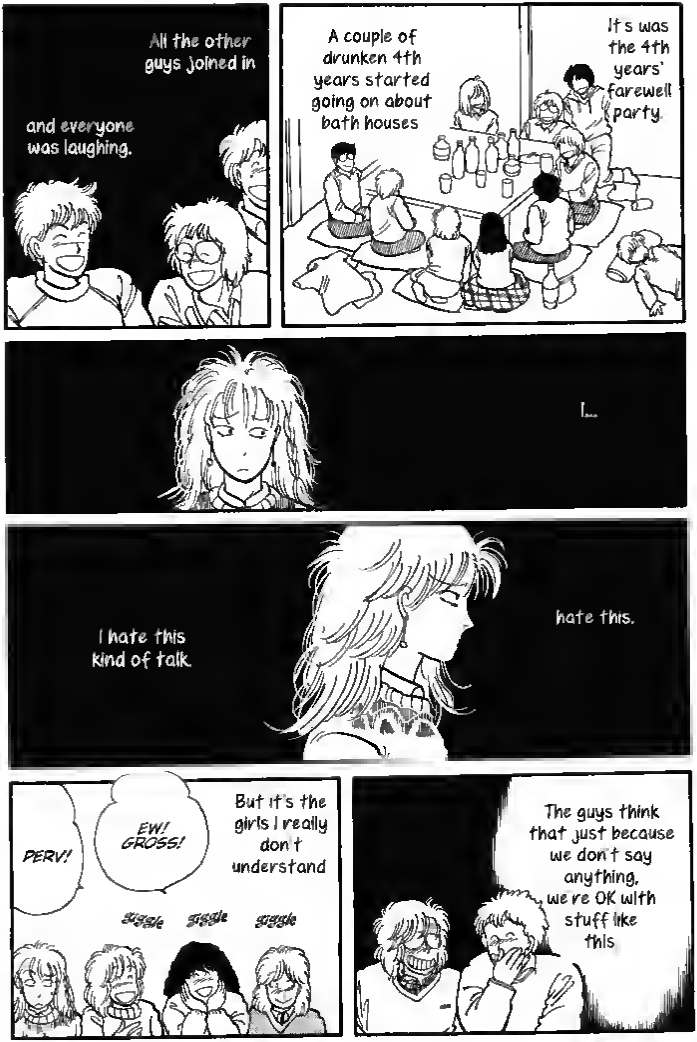
Pretty Baby
OF COURSE MY SON WILL GROW UP TO BE A GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN!
Handsome Husband
FIRST I'LL LAND A GOOD LOOKING HUSBAND!
Beautiful Boy
Sparkle
PRETTY HIGH HOPES YOU'VE GOT THERE.
OH YEAH?
THEN I'LL HAVE A GOOD LOOKING SON!
BUT! I WILL NEVER RAISE A SELFISH SON WHO MAKES GIRLS CRY!
Grrrrr
WHAT? I THINK ANY MOTHER WOULD BE PROUD FOR HER SON TO BE POPULAR.
I'LL SAY A MANTRA. "ACT COOL AND ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS WILL FLOCK TO YOU!"!
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER ARE YOU?
I'M GLAD I'M NOT YOUR SON
WHEN MY SON STARTS HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL QUIETLY GIVE HIM A CONDOM WRAPPED IN HIS HANDKERCHIEF.. THAT'S THE KIND OF MOM I WANT TO BE. .
Though I've had a few setbacks at step one...
Here... you're a man now


I GUESS A HOUSE-WIFE'S ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THE TIME, EH?
SIGH
THAT'S NOT IT...
I tried to make it easy enough to understand, but...
8 o'clock... I wonder if Kadokawa-kun's already eaten.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M JUST STEWING IN MY OWN JUICES UNTIL I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.
BEING COOPED UP IN THE HOUSE ALL THE TIME
ANYWAY, I JUST WANT TO GET OUT ONCE IN A WHILE.
SIP
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I DID..
ME, NEITHER
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D MARRY SOMEONE LIKE KADOKAWA-KUN
YOU KNOW, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
YEAH

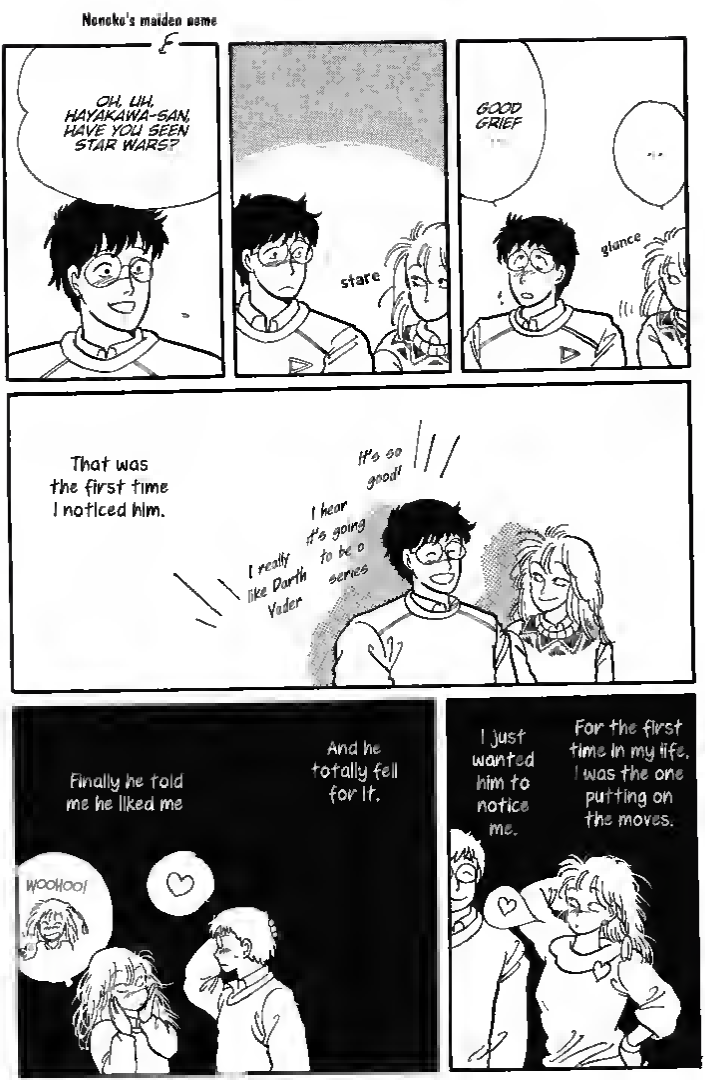

I fell for guys really easily.
Back then.
COFFEE KAN FUWA
Those were the best times.
A bunch of us couples would all hang out together
..HEY, NONOKO.
Kadokawa-kun didn't stand out at all.

THAT'S THE WORST COMBINATION! WE HAVE THE WORST COMPATIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE!!
HE'S A CAPRICORN AND I'M A LEO, RIGHT?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE SAME MOUN-TAINEERING CLUB?
IWANAMI-KUN KIND OF REMINDS ME OF KADOKAWA-SAN IN SOME WAYS.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT, THOUGH
I MEAN, HE'S THE TYPE WHO WON'T CROSS A RIVER EVEN ON A STONE BRIDGE, WHEREAS I'LL JUST SWIM ACROSS EVEN IF THERE'S NO BRIDGE AT ALL. SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I EVER THOUGHT TO MARRY HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HMM... I CAN SEE WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM..
EVERY ASTROLOGY BOOK I'VE LOOKED AT SAYS SO. THEY ALL SAY A CAPRICORN MAN IS TOO DULL TO KEEP THE INTEREST OF A FUN-LOVING LEO WOMAN...
I hate that sort of talk
EW, WHY DO GUYS GO TO BATH HOUSES ANYWAY?
AND SHE WAS REALLY UGLY, TOO!
AHAHA HAHA!
OH, YOU!
chatter


THE COMPUTER GRAPHICS ARE REALLY STATE OF THE ART, BUT THAT SORT OF STUFF IS SO EXPENSIVE!
IT WAS REALLY GOOD, AND THAT PHOTOELECTRON BIKE WAS SO COOL!
HAHAHA
Of course someone in advertising would say that
OH, HEY! I SAW TRON THE OTHER DAY!
HMM, WELL... I GUESS MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM.
I GUESS HE'S EMBARRASSED. HE DOESN'T REALLY LIKE THAT KIND OF TALK, EITHER
AHAHA... HE CHANGED THE SUBJECT
Oh now I remember


All the other guys joined in
and everyone was laughing.
A couple of drunken 4th years started going on about bath houses
It's was the 4th years' farewell party
I...
I hate this kind of talk.
hate this.
PERV!
EW! GROSS!
But it's the girls I really don't understand
giggle
giggle
giggle
The guys think that just because we don't say anything, we're OK with stuff like this

DO THEY THINK THEY'RE NOT LIKE THOSE OTHER GIRLS?
DO THEY THINK THAT MAKES THEM COOL?
HOW CAN THEY SMILE AND LAUGH LIKE THAT WHEN THOSE GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT PAYING FOR SEX?
!
HEY, COME ON, THERE ARE LADIES PRESENT.
OR MAYBE I'M JUST WEIRDLY PRUDISH...
IDIOT!
OH YEAH? MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S EMBARRASSED, KADOKAWA-SAN!
GIVE IT A REST. WHY DON'T YOU? EVERYONE'S EMBARRASSED.
KADO-KAWA-KUN
How rude!
I haven't done anything to be embarrassed about!


Nanoka's maiden name
OH, UH, HAYAKAWA-SAN, HAVE YOU SEEN STAR WARS?
stare
GOOD GRIEF
glance
That was the first time I noticed him.
It's so good!
I hear it's going to be a series
I really like Darth Vader
Finally he told me he liked me
And he totally fell for it.
WOOHOO!
I just wanted him to notice me.
For the first time in my life, I was the one putting on the moves.

I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA.
I finally remembered
YIKES, IT'S RAINING!
I'd forgotten for so long
There's no room for three
I'm fine
Come on, just get in here with us

QUIEEEEET
I WONDER IF HE'S SLEEPING
pad pad pad pad
IT'S LATE...
SHUFFLE
Sorry I'm late...
Hahaha... h-hi...
SCARY
WHOA
LY...
HE'S AWAKE!
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUH?
HUNGRY?
UH.. OH. WELL.. A LITTLE.

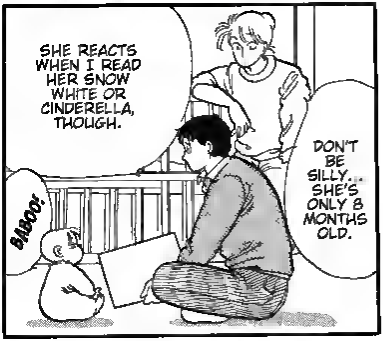
YIKES, THE SINK IS COVERED IN RICE.
Hehaha...
I'LL MAKE TEA.
HUGE
mutter
THAT'S ALL I KNOW HOW TO MAKE.
SO SALTY AND JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SALMON!
MMM! DELICIOUS!! THESE ARE TRULY A WORK OF ART!
Seaweed
HM? OK.
YOU HAVE HALF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME.

HUH?
UH.. OK UM..
I LOVE YOU.
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I remembered what was important.
Um... Um..
What are you blushing for? We're married...
We even had a kid together
You're so ridiculous...
I just have to remember
If I ever forget again,

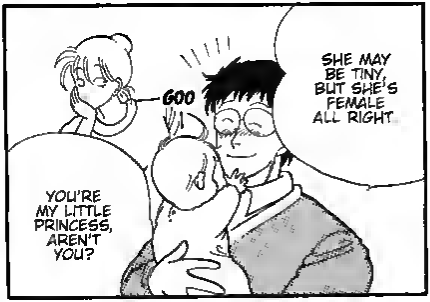
IT'S KARIKA! I THINK SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT I'M SAYING!
WHAT IS IT?

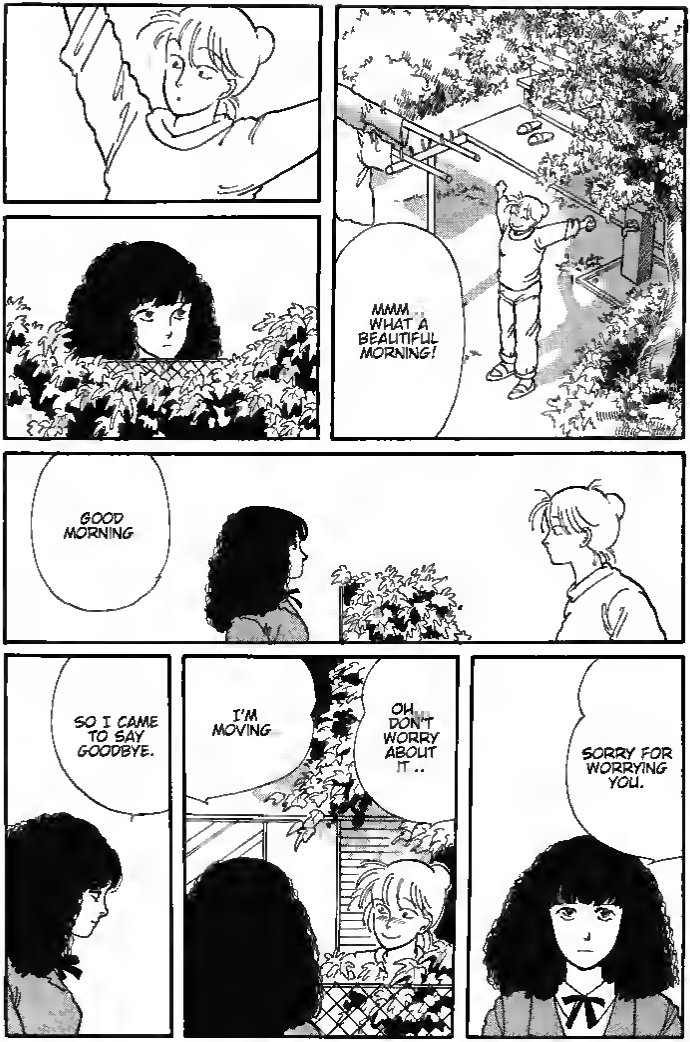
HMM..

AND SHE REALLY DOES SEEM TO PREFER THE PRINCESS STORIES. SHE SULKED WHEN I READ THE THREE LITTLE PIGS.

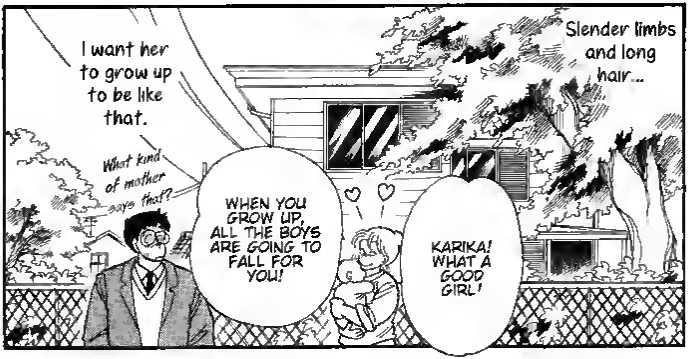

SHE REACTS WHEN I READ HER SNOW WHITE OR CINDERELLA, THOUGH.
DON'T BE SILLY... SHE'S ONLY 8 MONTHS OLD.
BABOO!

What an idiot...

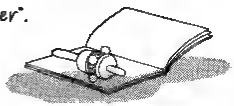

GOO
SHE MAY BE TINY, BUT SHE'S FEMALE ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE MY LITTLE PRINCESS, AREN'T YOU?


MMM... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!
GOOD MORNING
SO I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.
I'M MOVING
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT..
SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.

I SAW HIM EVERY MORNING AS I PASSED BY.
I EVEN KNEW HE HAD A WIFE AND BABY AND ALL THAT.
I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM
I LIKED BOTH OF YOU.
YOU WON'T TELL HIM, WILL YOU?
HUH?
GOODBYE.
WELL, I'D BETTER GO NOW.
SAY HI TO KARIKA-CHAN FOR ME.


I want her to grow up to be like that.
What kind of mother says that?
WHEN YOU GROW UP, ALL THE BOYS ARE GOING TO FALL FOR YOU!
KARIKA! WHAT A GOOD GIRL!
Slender limbs and long hair...

This is the story of what happens after the prince and princess's "happily ever after".



When you grow up
I'll tell you the story.

My long haired,
slender limbed
princess.

Schoolgirl Princess / End